



For immediate release  
August 15, 2001

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### **Rapid Response Team activated to aid South Side National Bank employees**

ST. LOUIS -- The state Rapid Response Team has been activated to help workers that will be dislocated by layoffs at the South Side National Bank at 4111 Telegraph Rd. in St. Louis.

The Rapid Response Team, composed of representatives from the Department of Economic Development's (DED) Division of Workforce Development (DWD), the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, the Workforce Development Board of St. Louis County, the St. Louis Community College Employment and Training Center, the St. Louis County Department of Human Resources Services/Workforce Development Division, and the St. Louis Agency for Training and Employment (SLATE) responds to the needs of workers who have lost or will lose their jobs by providing special training and re-employment services.

Joseph L. Driskill, director of the Department of Economic Development, has directed DWD to assist South Side National Bank employees by offering Missouri Career Center services.

"The Rapid Response Team provides free services to Missourians that need assistance in finding new employment opportunities following the loss of a job," said DED Director Joseph L. Driskill. "I encourage these individuals to take advantage of these services and explore the employment opportunities that exist in the St. Louis region."

The Rapid Response Team and the local Missouri Career Center will provide immediate services to workers needing assistance, including assessment and testing, career counseling and resume writing, interviewing skills, job search methods, on-the-job training and tuition assistance for vocational training or education.

Representatives from DWD, the Workforce Investment Board of St. Louis County, and the St. Louis Community College Employment and Training Center are working with the company to ensure that workers have access to these free services. Meetings will be held with these individuals at 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 16, and at the same times Friday, Aug. 17, at the company's facility to explain how these services can help them find a new job.

In May, Allegiant Bank purchased Southside Bancshares, the parent company of South Side National Bank. More than 50 employees will be laid off throughout the Fall as the new company restructures as a result of the merger.

Employers interested in hiring South Side National Bank workers can call **1-800-877-8698**.

Since 1983 -- when Missouri's dislocated worker program was established -- more than 100,000 dislocated workers have participated in the program. Approximately 80 percent of the people assisted by the program find new employment.

Laid-off workers interested in the training and re-employment services offered through the Rapid Response Team can call **DWD at 1-800-877-8698, SLATE at 314/589-8000 or the St. Louis Community College Employment and Training Center at 314/644-9032.**